

## FARM & GARDEN

### Rhubarb or Pie Plant.

One of the things that should never be wanting to the farmer's table in the spring is rhubarb, or pie-plant sauce. It is the earliest green food that comes, excepting greens. Its pleasant, acid flavor is medicinal to the blood, starting into new life the currents that have grown sluggish with the torpid cold and the eating of concentrated foods through the winter. In the city markets it has already appeared, the plants having been forced in greenhouses, and it commands good prices and is thought highly of. It takes considerable sugar in the cooking, but even then it pays for pies and sauce. If you have already a bed of it, remove the covering and hoe around the plants lightly this month. If the clumps of plants are large and thickly grown, separate them and replant. It gives new life and growth. Twenty to twenty-five plants will be a large enough bed for an average family. Cut away flower stalks as soon as they appear.

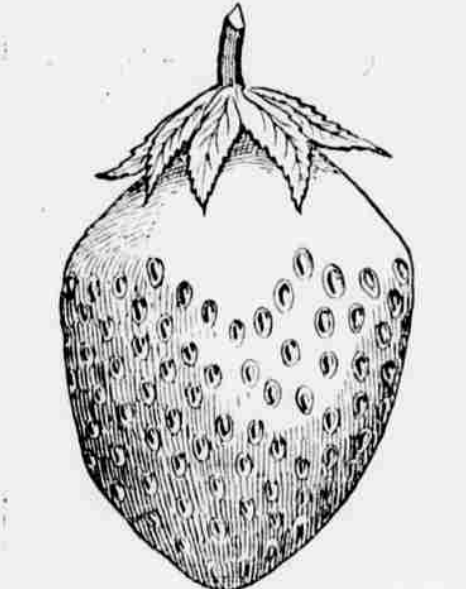
If you have not already a pie-plant bed, make one this month. We shall tell you now. Here is an illustration of the Linnaeus rhubarb, which is one of the best varieties:



LINNAEUS RHUBARB.

You may plant either from seeds or from divisions of old roots. Be careful that a bud goes with each bunch of roots. Spade the ground deep and wide. Each plant must have a space of 18 inches, both in depth and breadth; mix the soil that fills in around the plant with two or three shovelfuls of old stable manure. That is all there is of it. Late in November spread three or four inches of leaves, straw or rough manure over the bed. In picking stalks for cooking, do not cut, but pull them away.

The Strawberry Bed.



HENDERSON STRAWBERRY.

Here is the latest favorite among varieties of this most popular of all small fruits. It is named for Peter Henderson, the famous Jersey gardener. It is early, very productive and of great size. Its flavor is said to be superior to that of any strawberry yet discovered. This is only the second season that the plants have been put upon the market.

It is a disgrace to a farmer not to have a good strawberry bed. There is no more delicious, healthful fruit grown. What, pray, is better or prettier than a saucer of ripe, red strawberries? It appeals to every refined sense in the soul, and is food for the gods. And a good strawberry short-cake—don't talk! It is the end of perfection. Again, canned, preserved or made into jelly for winter, in the days when the envious season takes all our fresh fruits from us—to remind us that we are merely mortals after all, and subject to nature—still and always what is better than the strawberry?

The Agriculturist says anybody can raise strawberries that can raise potatoes, which is a fact. It says: "There is no reason why the family of every farmer should not have all the strawberries they could eat three times a day all through the season of this fruit."

The plants may be set out either in the spring or fall. April is a good month. The bed should only be allowed to bear two years. Then it should be plowed under and a new one started. At present writing, this delicious fruit is ripe in the south. It is brought north in refrigerator boxes and cars and sold at famous prices. The weekly steamers bring strawberries from Savannah to New York in great ice boxes holding 100 to 500 quarts.

### THE SOIL.

Ground that is suited for potatoes will do for the strawberry. As early in the spring as it is fit to work plow deeply, from a foot to 18 inches. Three inches of rotten stable manure should be worked into the soil thoroughly with harrow or cultivator to the depth of 9 inches. If more convenient, bone dust and wood ashes or leaf mold or swamp muck may be used. Whichever one of these is employed it should be mixed with wood ashes, 1 bushel of the ashes to 20 of the fertilizer. That is Peter Henderson's direction. Plant in rows 2½ feet apart and a foot apart in the row. For strong soil and very large growths, the rows 3 feet apart and plants separate 18 inches in the row is not too much.

One well-known strawberry man sets his strawberry beds in rows four feet apart. He sets out plants in the spring, and the first year he sets a hill of early potatoes between every two strawberry plants. In cultivating the potatoes he cuts off every blossom and runner from the strawberries, until after the potatoes are dug in July. Then he lets the runners grow. He gives careful and thorough tillage until September with the cultivator. His culture is a constant war on weeds.

Late in the fall, just before the final freeze up for winter, cover the ground three inches deep with straw, sawdust, pine-needles, or something of that kind. This is mulching. It prevents the plants from freezing out. In Connecticut, growers often mulch the strawberry bed with stalks of sowed corn, well grown.

The largest crop of berries will be had the first year—a year from the time the berries are planted. The strawberry man already quoted only allows them to bear one year. That spring he sets out another bed some

where else. As soon as the crop of fruit is picked from the old one, he plows up the ground and sows it in buckwheat, Hungarian grass or fender corn. In that way he gets three crops from the ground in two years.

### VARIETIES.

Besides the Henderson, already mentioned, there are several other choice new kinds that are quite taking the place of the old ones, even the favorite though sour Wilson. The Kentucky is a very excellent berry. It ripens a little later than the rest, and is especially valuable in prolonging the strawberry season. Then there is the Crescent seedling, said to be the perfection of a fruit, the largest producing strawberry known. It is, however, an imperfectly flowered plant, and will need to be planted alongside of some other kind that the blossoms may be fertilized and make fruit. The old Iron Clad is the best variety to plant with it, three rows of Crescent and one of Iron Clad. Yet another choice berry is the Manchester. The fruit is even larger than the Crescent. The Manchester is likewise an imperfectly flowered kind, and should be planted with the Cumberland Triumph. But everybody must try these and other varieties for himself, and settle down on the kinds that do the best with him.

### Something About Potatoes.

Many of our readers would be surprised to know the quantity of Irish or white potatoes that are annually grown in the United States. In good years the crop amounts to 300,000,000 bushels, and both supply and demand are increasing at a rapid rate.

Big stories of fabulous potato yields are misleading. When not lies they are apt to be puffings of some patent fertilizer. Recently was published in an agricultural paper a statement that 42½ bushels of potatoes had been grown from a single pound of seed, the variety known as the Dakota Red. This, of course, was a very wonderful story, and the reader naturally looked to see how it was done. The method of culture was fully explained, apparently. But reading on one perceived that this miracle had been wrought by the use of a certain patent fertilizer whose name kept constantly recurring in the article. That was the African in the woodpile, so to speak. The whole gorgeous potato story was nothing more or less than an advertisement of Mr. Blank's miraculous manufactured manure.

The best potatoes in the country are raised in the western states of the union. What is known as new ground produces the finest crops. It is loose and mellow, and contains a quantity of potash and nitrogen, which this favorite tuber feeds on. In the absence of new ground, however, fertilize plentifully with well-rotted stable manure, mixed lightly with wood ashes. If you cannot get the stable manure, a fertilizer made of bone dust and ashes is excellent. Spread a mixture of 200 pounds of good ashes and 200 pounds of bone dust, to the acre upon your potato ground broadcast; then plant the potatoes; cover them partly; spread 200 pounds more upon them in the hills or trenches, and finish covering.

The best possible situation for potatoes is a strong clover sod upon a northwestern exposure. So says an agriculturist who has written a prize essay on potato raising. Plant as early as you can for the early tubers—as soon as the sun begins to warm the soil sufficiently to admit of working. The author of the prize essay mentioned always plows his potato ground in the fall, and puts on the manure in the spring. Put the late plantings well off towards warm weather. Furrow the ground in rows about three feet apart and cover four inches deep. The native American farmer is apt to be slovenly in the matter of keeping down weeds. In parts of Europe the race of weeds is well nigh extinct in the vegetable garden. It makes one melancholy as a sick rat to ride past many of our farm-gardens in July and see the weed-strangled vegetables struggling for life. Keep the things down.

The prize potato-raiser covers the seed with a one-horse share-plow, and cultivates with the harrow the first time. After that he uses a spring-tooth cultivator.

### KIND TO PLANT.

Everybody has his own favorite potato for planting. Avoid the gross, big, watery kinds. A smooth, fine-grained, mealy tuber is the best. No better potato than the Early Rose was ever produced, for all purposes. But any one given variety deteriorates after it has been cultivated a generation or so, and new varieties must be found. It is said that the favorite Early Rose already begins to decline. According to some good judges, the coming potato is the variety known as the Little Maudslayi. It produces a larger yield to the acre than any other kind; it is claimed; an immense yield, in truth. Try some of the seed if you can get it.

### PURCHASING THE SEED.

Plant fair, moderate sized potatoes. Many prefer them cut to a single eye, but that is a question not yet decided. About ten days before planting time bring seed potatoes into the light and air. This is a matter of importance. It will strengthen the sprouts and forward them. Examine each potato singly, and see that it is perfect, fair, pure and free from scab or other disease. The way to stamp out potato scab is to plant only pure seed.

Finally, pay no attention to miraculous big potato stories. Go on your own way. Plant the best seed in good ground, manure plentifully. Keep the ground mellow, and don't leave a weed in the patch, and you will have as good a yield of potatoes as anybody needs.

### Peas and Oats Together.

As the country becomes thickly settled pastures grow smaller and smaller. It becomes necessary more and more to keep cows in confinement. They do very well, too, when given a due amount of green food, such as corn fodder, grass, etc. This is known as the soiling process of feeding a cow. The cow pea, a field pea, is one of the articles of food most valued for this purpose. Oats and peas sown and grown together are highly recommended. The Live Stock Journal gives some useful information on the subject, as follows:

This combined crop needs the land to be well cultivated after plowing. We have seen excellent crops of sod for corn. The oats are sown with the peas to hold the peas up and enable the crop to be cut with the reaper. The seed is generally mixed, two of peas and one of oats—two bushels of peas and one of oats to the acre. They are best sown with the drill, which covers best. Oats with stiff straw should be selected.

The field pea is ready to cut before oats, but you must cut when the peas are ready. The peas must not be allowed to get quite ripe, for if they are very easily, and you may find the best part of the crop shelled out on the ground. When the pod begins to change color at the top of the vine, cut the crop at once, and do this when the dew is on in the morning. Better err in cutting a little early than late.

As to the seed, the best comes from Canada. Field peas are easily obtained at any of the cities near the Canada border, and the price is usually from \$1 to \$1.15. Seedmen would send them if wanted in any of the western cities or towns.

This combined crop, when good, is valuable for many purposes of feeding; and when cut at just the right time the straw is as nutritious as hay. We have often raised it as a soiling crop for milk cows, and it largely promotes the flow of milk. It is cut for soiling when the pea-pod has fairly formed, and before all is fed the green peas will have formed.

## BOYS & GIRLS

### A Bad Cigar.



"Look yer, Mistah Burns, sah," pears to me, sah, dis yer brand o' tobacco ain't got de same 'greoble flavah' as dat other had de last time previous; it 'pears to have an odor o' burnt rags."

### Some Funny Parrot Stories.

The late Dean Stanley had a parrot of which he was very fond. Its cage was hung in the family sitting room. Polly kept her bright, wicked eye open and heard all that went on. Every morning the good dean assembled all his servants in this room for family prayers. Once he invited a friend to spend the night at his house. In the morning this guest walked in the garden before breakfast. He found the servants grouped together under a laburnum tree. They seemed to be in some excitement, and were looking up into the tree. He came near and found they were gazing at Polly, who was perched upon a branch out of reach. She had escaped from her cage. Polly saw the group of upturned faces. The dean, too, came out at that moment. It was just as she had been accustomed to see them in the good man's sitting room. She looked at her master, then arched her head to one side, turned her roguish eye steadily upon the servants a moment and remarked solemnly, "Let us pray."



"LET US PRAY!"

She heard her master say that to the people every morning when they stood together just before they knelt to pray. She thought it was the proper time for the devout observation.

Baron Cuvier, who studied birds and animals all his life, decided that the parrot could not reason, but only repeated by rote what it had heard. He was certainly mistaken. The parrot stories we give our boys and girls in this column prove beyond a doubt that Polly can follow out a chain of thought and come to a conclusion that is satisfactory to herself, at any rate.

Here is another anecdote quite as good: A parrot belonging to an English gentleman was taken out of his room because it disturbed him while he was ill. The cage was hung in the kitchen. While there the thievish bird one day stole some raisins from a pudding. The cook was very angry and threw some hot grease upon Polly's head. The parrot did not forget the punishment, as was plainly shown by and by. Her master had been so sick that it was necessary to shave his head. When he recovered his pet was taken back to his room. She looked at his shaven head a moment in great astonishment, and appeared thinking. Then she said slowly:

"You bald-headed ruffian! You stole the cook's raisins!"

The gray parrot is very intelligent. A bird owner placed one of these alongside a young Amazon parrot. The gray one taught the other to talk. If the pupal did not pronounce the words correctly the gray would turn away contemptuously and exclaim: "Blockhead!" Nobody need say that bird did not know what it was talking about.

Yet one more parrot story. A bird of the gray species was kept in a children's nursery. She became fond of the little ones just as a sensible human being would have done. Her greatest delight was to see the pretty little baby bathed. She showed very good taste there, too. The child became sick at length, and Polly was banished to the kitchen, like all unfortunate parrots when they are in the way. She watched everything there with her bright little eyes, and thought out her wise bird thoughts all to herself. One day the family were startled by a terrible scream from the parrot. They heard her cry: "The baby! The dear baby!" In affright they ran to the kitchen. The parrot was watching in the wildest excitement the roasting of a young pig before the fire. She thought the pig was the baby.

### Why We Call the Cat "Puss."

(Harper's Young People.)

Do you ever think why we call the cat "puss"? A great many years ago the people of Egypt worshipped the cat. They thought the cat was like the moon, because she was more active at night and because her eyes change just as the moon changes, which is sometimes full and sometimes a bright little crescent, or half moon, as we say. Did you ever notice pussy's eyes to see how they change? So these people made an idol with a cat's head and named it Pasht, the same name they gave to the moon, for the word means the face of the moon. That word has been changed to puss, or pass, the name which nearly everyone gives to the cat. Puss and pussy are pet names for kitty every-where. But few people know that it was given to her thousands of years ago.

### Beholding.

Behold a word that means to reform, and leave to repair. Behold again and leave the Jose. Curtail, and leave the word which ends a prayer. What is the original word?

### Query for the Young Folks.

When a carriage is in motion does the top of the wheel move any faster than the bottom?

### THE CASHIER'S DAUGHTER.

The Merchants National Bank, of Toledo, Ohio, is recognized as one of the prosperous financial concerns of that busy city; and M. C. Warn, Esq., is well known as its Assistant Cashier. Mr. Warn has a daughter who suffered severely from rheumatism. Although only thirteen years old, this obstinate disease took a firm hold of her, and for months tortured her. Hearing that Mr. Warn had used Athliphoros to restore the young lady to health and anxious to know the effect of the medicine on one so young, a gentleman called upon Mr. Warn, to ask for information about it, which Mr. Warn very courteously gave in this wise:

"My daughter was indeed a sufferer. For several months she was laid up with rheumatism, and unable to go to school or to attend to her studies at home. We were quite at a loss to know what to do about it, for the disease did not yield to the ordinary remedies of the physicians. After she had endured much pain, I heard of Athliphoros, and tried a bottle. I was astonished, both at the completeness of the cure and the promptness with which it was brought about. I had supposed that a medicine so powerful as this might have left some unpleasant effects, but it is now many months since she was cured, and there has been nothing of the kind, nor has there been any return of the disease. My daughter is as well as ever, attends her school regularly, and is taking her usual interest in her studies. I have good reason to hold Athliphoros in very high esteem, and freely to recommend it to all who are afflicted with rheumatism."

From the Bank the gentleman went to the drug store of Messrs. Van Stone & Crosby. On asking Mr. Crosby what he knew about Athliphoros, that gentleman replied: "We have sold a good deal of it, and I have heard of its doing much good in many cases."

"Their names? Well, there is one just around the corner from here. He is a barber, working at Flower's barber shop on Jefferson avenue."

On asking Mr. Flower about rheumatism, he replied, "no, I haven't the rheumatism, but my man Thomas had it, and that—that What-dye-call-it, with the long name—that knocked it out of him. Better wait and see him; he'll be here in a few minutes." Presently came Mr. G. W. Thomas, a bright and cheery looking young man of about thirty, who looked as if he had never suffered an ache. "Surely you are not the man who was laid up with rheumatism?"

"Yes, I am the man, was his reply, and I was all crippled up with it, so that I couldn't work. Yes, that Athliphoros is the stuff. I would give twenty-five dollars for a bottle rather than go without it. The rheumatism came on me when I was at work in Chicago. I was sick a long while. My first attack was in the fall of 1883. I tried liniments and everything else I could get. You know in a barber shop every body who comes in recommends something or other. Well, I took them all. I had quit work. One Saturday night I was helped home from the shop, for I could not walk. On the way I got a bottle of Athliphoros. I liked the idea of it, because it didn't odor to cure everything; only rheumatism and neuralgia. I was undressed and put to bed, for I could not help myself. I took two tea-spoonfuls of the medicine, in milk. When I had had it down about two hours I began to feel numb. Now, I was not in pain. In about an hour and a half after that I felt prickly all over, as if with a lot of needles. Then, I sweated. Oh, what a sweat! By Wednesday morning I was able to be at work again. Since that I have never lost a day. I took in all about three bottles."

"Well, you ought to see my old land-lady, old Mrs. Smith. She is 73 years old. She had taken pretty much everything for her rheumatism; but no good. I had about enough of this medicine left for two doses, and I gave it to her. She took it, and it relieved her at once. Then she got another bottle. That was two months ago. She has had no return of the rheumatism; nor have I either."

"If you cannot get Athliphoros of your druggist, we will send it express paid, on receipt of regular price—one dollar per bottle. We prefer that you buy it from your druggist, but if he hasn't it, do not be persuaded to try something else, but order at once from us as directed. Athliphoros Co., 112 Wall Street, New York."

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Joint Accommodation.....	5:30 A.M.
Chicago South.	
Express Mail.....	10:15 A.M.
Lighting Express.....	10:15 P.M.
Express.....	10:15 P.M.
R. C. and St. L. Express.....	12:15 A.M.
Joint Accommodation.....	6:45 P.M.
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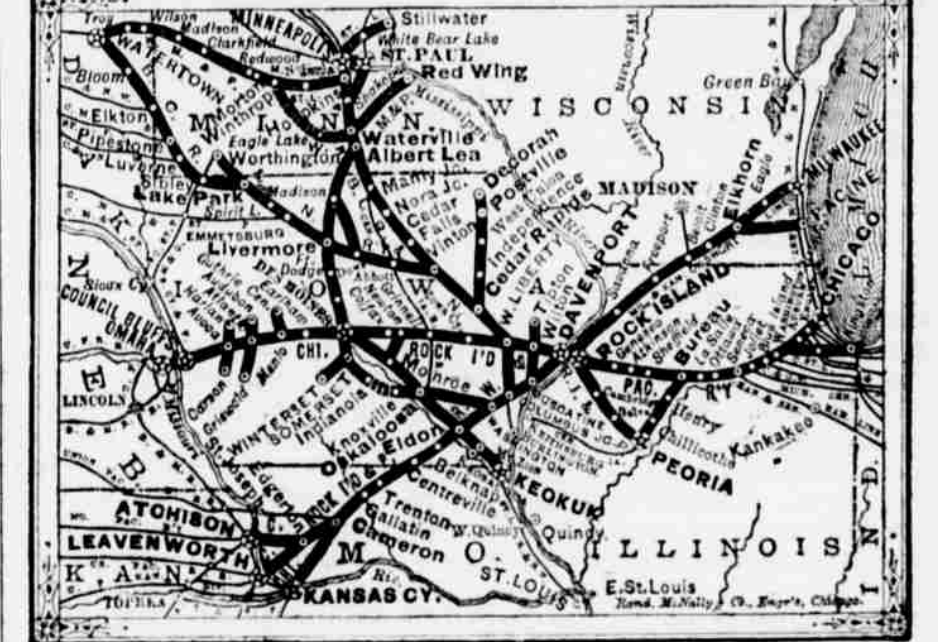
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